

I earnestly hope that the administration of President Fillmore will be popular throughout the Union, and meet with the warm approbation of every patriot.

I regretted to learn through you that Mr. Webster had been indisposed. For his great effort in the Senate of the United States last Spring, in which he seemed "to gather the wisdom and patriotism of Centuries" may the earnest wishes of his soul be gratified; and the evening of his life be as tranquil and happy, as its meridian was brilliant with the noble creations of his intellect.

Enclosed is a letter¹²³ from our friend Senator Mangum, which I cheerfully confide to your care, to be used at your discretion.

*From F. Knox.*¹²⁴

Saint Louis,

October 19th., 1850.

A painful rumor, which has been in circulation here for three or four days past, has, this morning, made its appearance in the "Republican." It is to the effect that my Uncle, Dr. R. Knox, "was drowned in the Humbolt River."

I do not write to his wife, because I hope she *may* not see the report; and I write to you that you may be able to satisfy her, so far as the present state of the case will allow, if it should reach her.

All I can say is, that we think there is no evidence whatever, either direct or circumstantial, to sustain the report. It is like some forty others that have been in circulation, since he started, all of which we know to be false. It was not credited in San Francisco, and could be traced to no authentic source. So we are informed by a gentleman directly from there, who left there on the 1st. Sept.—the latest of any body, or any news which has arrived.

We shall doubtless have letters by the first mail from there, and as soon as we hear *any* thing, I will let you know it, or write to his wife at once.

I feel that the matter stands *in fact*, just about as if we had heard nothing; tho' we cannot avoid some anxiety, 'till we get positive intelligence, of course.

¹²³ Not found.

¹²⁴ A nephew of Dr. Reuben Knox.